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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,503	03/28/2001	Yasuko Yokobori	1614.1159	1217
21171	7590	04/15/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			VU, THONG H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2142	

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/818,503

Applicant(s)

YOKOBORI ET AL.

Examiner

Thong H Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Knight et al [Knight, 6,493,703 B1].

4. As per claim 1, Knight discloses a network community supporting system [Knight, a network with a community of users, col 8 lines 15-40] comprising:

a message database storing contents of messages given by participants of a network community together with titles thereof [Knight, a database storing message with classification, col 8 lines 41-60; subject matter or title, filtering criteria, col 9 lines 25-col 10 line 27; col 11 lines 32-65 et seq.; topics, col 14 lines 33-67; col 24 lines 33-63];

a theme database storing themes of the network community [Knight, database system with subject matter headings, grouping, community, col 18 lines 9-25];

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a theme classifying part analyzing characteristics of the messages concerning themes thereof, based on the contents stored in said message database and theme database [Knight, database and classification, col 13 lines 45-62; col 18 lines 9-25];

Knight also discloses updating said theme database based on the analysis results of said theme classifying part [Knight, designed based on marketing research based criteria, col 26 lines 9-45]

5. As per claim 2, Knight discloses message analysis database for analyzing the messages generated based on said message database; and a message grouping part appropriately grouping the messages stored in said message database, based on relationship among the messages stored in said message analysis database or message database.
6. As per claim 3, Knight discloses a part performing modification, generation and/or division of the titles of the messages stored in said message analysis database.
7. As per claim 4, Knight discloses a theme part (i.e.: topic) storing the themes and a keyword part storing keywords concerning the themes, wherein said theme classifying part classifies the modified, generated and/or divided titles of the messages, by using the keywords of said keyword part of said theme database [Knight, topic, keyword, group, classification, updated, col 25 line 23-col 26 line 45].

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8. As per claim 5, Knight discloses theme renewing part updating the themes based on message analysis interim output, output based on the titles (i.e.: topic) of the messages stored in said message analysis database and a theme part storing the themes keyword part storing keywords concerning the themes of a theme database [Knight, topic, keyword, group, classification, updated, col 25 line 23-col 26 line 45].

9. As per claim 6, Knight discloses community analysis rule database used for contriving guideline for management the community from the contents of said message analysis database analyzing the contents of the messages database; and a community analyzing part referring to said community analysis rule database, and analyzing the community database [Knight, rules, database, community, col 8 line 53-col 10 line 27].

10. As per claim 7, Knight discloses a theme analysis rule database used for analyzing the themes from said message analysis database; and a theme analyzing part referring to said theme rule database, and analyzing the theme [Knight, rules, database, community, col 8 line 53-col 10 line 27].

11. As per claim 8, Knight discloses member (i.e.: user, subscriber) database storing personal information of the participants of the network community, wherein the member information of said member database is used for drawing the messages of the participants [Knight, subscribers, database, community, col 8 line 53-col 10 line 27].

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12. Claims 9-16 contain the similar limitations set forth of apparatus claims 1-8.

Therefore, claims 9-16 are rejected for the similar rationale set forth in claims 1-8.

13. Claims 17-18 contain the similar limitations set forth of apparatus claim 1.

Therefore, claims 17-18 are rejected for the similar rationale set forth in claim 1.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Thong Vu, whose telephone number is (571)-272-3904. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Jack Harvey*, can be reached at (571) 272-3896. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thong Vu
Patent Examiner
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